

Identification of Races 0 and 2 of *Cladosporium fulvum* (syn *Passalora fulva*) on Tomato in the Cinturón Hortícola de La Plata, Argentina

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Surveys aimed at evaluating the incidence and severity of a new disease that developed in greenhouses cultivated with tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) were performed during 2009 and 2010 in greenhouses of the cultivars *Elpida* (Enza Zaden) and *Colibrí* (Clause) in an area of tomato production known as the Cinturón Hortícola de La Plata (the “horticultural belt of La Plata”). The disease had a 100% prevalence and 90% incidence within the ten 250 m² greenhouses that were monitored in 2009, 2010, and 2011. In two consecutive assays, severity was 40%. The wide distribution of the disease suggests that the tomato hybrids under use lack resistance genes. The upper surface of diseased leaves had pale green to yellowish, 1- to 1.5-cm spots with undefined margins that progressed to a yellowish brown color, while on the lower side they had pale brown to brown sporulation of fungal conidiophores and conidia. Monosporic fungal cultures were obtained by needle transfer of conidia from sporulating areas of leaves ($n = 20$) to water agar medium. On 2% potato dextrose agar (PDA) the colonies of the relatively low growing fungus were strongly pigmented, greenish grey, and black on the reverse of the plate. The fungus developed one-celled, pale olive-green, ovoid conidia on long, branched chains, which arose from pigmented conidiophores, corresponding to the description of *Cladosporium fulvum* made by Joosten and de Wit (1). The identity of two isolates was confirmed by amplifying the 580-bp ITS sequences by means of primers ITS4 (5'-TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC-3') and ITS5 (5'-GAATTCGGAAGTAAAGTCGTAACAAGG-3') (ITS sequence Race 0 JQ768324.1 and Race 2 JQ768325.1). Both were 100% homologous to the ITS sequences of *C. fulvum* strains ATCC44962 (AF393700) and ATCC44960 (AF303701). Monosporic cultures of four isolates, each obtained from leaves collected from different plants growing in different greenhouses, were inoculated on a set of differential genotypes of tomato: cvs. Moneymaker, Cf-0, Cf-2, Cf-4, Cf-5, and Cf-9 (kindly provided by the Laboratory of Phytopathology of Wageningen University). Three plants of each tomato genotype at the 5 to 6 true leaf stage were inoculated by spraying a 10⁵ conidia/ml conidial suspension of *C. fulvum* on the leaflets of the 3rd and 4th leaf. Inoculation tests of each isolate were repeated at least twice. After inoculation, plants were grown in the greenhouse at 13 to 29°C and 99% relative humidity. However, for the first 20 h after inoculation, plants were kept in the dark. They were regularly monitored and were scored as resistant or susceptible at 20 days after inoculation. Susceptible genotypes developed pale green to yellow spots on the abaxial leaf surface and pale brown to olivaceous brown sporulation on the adaxial side. Plants lacking disease symptoms were considered resistant. Inoculated fungi were reisolated from infected tissue and the identity of the fungal cultures confirmed based on morphology and the ITS sequence. Based on the reactions of the tomato genotypes, two races were identified, three isolates (race 2) developed symptoms only in cv. MM Cf-2, while the remaining isolate (race 0) provoked symptoms only in cv. MM Cf-0.

Reference: (1) M. Joosten and P. de Wit. Annu Rev Phytopathol. 37:335, 1999.

Cited by

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